

PUBLIC
DOCUMENT

Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

2003 Asarco Globe Public Meeting
Wednesday, October 1st
Laradon Hall - 5100 Lincoln Ave
6:30PM – 8:30PM

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is hosting a public meeting to update the community on the Asarco Globe environmental cleanup. In addition, the Department will discuss an EPA proposal to use soils from another site at the Globe plant as cover (*please see attached fact sheet*). Both the Department and the EPA are committed to involving the community in this decision. Please share your thoughts with us at this meeting. If you are unable to attend and would like to comment, please call us or mail your comments to Barbara O'Grady at the address below.

Agenda

- Update on residential soils cleanup and medical monitoring program.
- Discussion of Asarco's financial status.
- Presentation of EPA's soil placement proposal.
- Representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Asarco, and the Environmental Protection Agency will be present.
- A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be present.

We look forward to seeing everyone. For more information please contact either Barbara O'Grady at (303) 692-3395, Fonda Apostolopoulos at (303) 692-3411, or Mark Rudolph (se habla español) at (303) 692-3311. Colorado department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment,
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Placement of VB/I-70 Soil at Asarco Globe Plant

Fact Sheet

September 2003

Asarco Globe background

For the past nine years, Asarco, Inc. has been cleaning up lead, cadmium and arsenic contamination in the soils of the Globeville community. These heavy metals came from the operation of the Asarco Globe Smelter, which is located at 51st and Washington Avenue in Denver. Asarco's clean-up work was conducted as a result of a court settlement with the State of Colorado.

Asarco's residential soils cleanup in Globeville was recently completed. However, Asarco's financial difficulties have left the cleanup of the Globe plant incomplete. Currently, exposed soils at the plant contain highly elevated levels of lead, cadmium and arsenic. Clean-up goals for the plant site include consolidating, grading and capping the contaminated soils.

Cleanup at VB/I-70

This year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began a residential soils cleanup of the Swansea, Elyria, Cole and Clayton neighborhoods under a Superfund project known as Vasquez Boulevard and Interstate 70 (VB/I-70). The yards currently being cleaned up at VB/I-70 have levels of arsenic and lead similar to those that were found in residential soils in Globeville, but no cadmium.

The soils that are being removed from the VB/I-70 yards have levels of lead and/or arsenic that are too high for residential neighborhoods, but are suitable for commercial land uses.

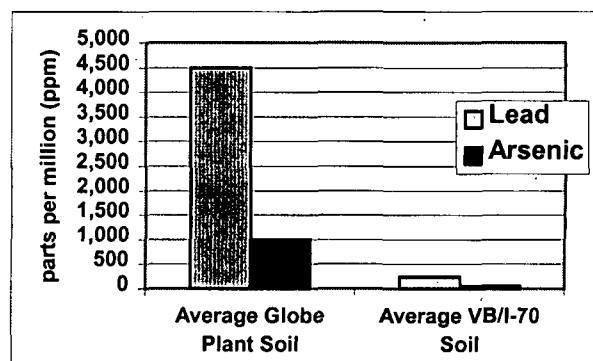
Using VB/I-70 soil at Globe?

The EPA is proposing to take the soil from the residential properties at VB/I-70 and transport it to the Asarco Globe plant site, where it will be used to cover the more highly contaminated soil already located at the site. This will allow EPA to save approximately \$5 million dollars.

The benefit to the Globeville community and the Asarco Globe clean-up effort is the assurance that Asarco will cap the more contaminated soils exposed on the Globe plant site. Given Asarco's financial situation, the final remediation of the Globe plant is currently in question. Using the VB/I-70 soils to cover the Globe site will provide long-term protection to residents from the soils already there and will facilitate redevelopment.

Is it safe?

The average levels of contamination in the VB/I-70 soils are much lower than much of the soil currently exposed at the Globe plant (*see chart*). The VB/I-70 soils will provide a protective cap of the Globe plant soils, and will allow vegetation to grow.



Comparison of soils currently on the Globe plant site with those from VB/I-70.

The EPA and the State are committed to the enforcement of strict measures to protect residents from exposure to dust of contamination during transportation and placement of soils on the Globe Plant site. As with the cleanup at Globeville, the transportation, handling and placement of the soils will be in compliance with the State's Consent Decree with Asarco.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment believes that placement of the VB/I-70 soils advances the cleanup of the Asarco Globe plant site in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.

Both the State and the EPA are committed to involving the Globeville community in this decision. If the VB/I-70 soils are not placed on the Globe plant site they will go to a landfill.

For more information, please call: at CDPHE

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Mark Rudolph (se habla espanol)	(303) 692-3311

at the EPA

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Colorado Department
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Reunión Publica de Asarco Globe 2003
El día Miércoles 1^{ro} de Octubre
Laradon Hall – 5100 Lincoln Av.
6:30PM – 8:30PM

El Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado tendrá una reunión pública para dar información a la comunidad sobre la limpieza ambiental de Asarco Globe. El departamento también discutirá una propuesta de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) para usar tierra de otro sitio en la planta de Globe para cubrir las tierras allí (por favor mire al folleto). El departamento y el EPA estarán cometidos a envolver a la comunidad en esta decisión. Por favor díganos como usted siente en esta reunión. Si no puede asistir y si gusta comentar, llámenos ó escriba sus comentarios a Barbara O'Grady a la dirección abajo.

Agenda

- El más reciente reporte sobre la limpieza de tierras residenciales y el programa de monitorización médica.
- Discusión sobre el estatus financiero de Asarco.
- Presentación del presupuesto del EPA de usar tierras
- Representativos del estado de Colorado, Asarco, y el EPA estarán presente.
- Traductores estarán presentes para traducir en español.

Les esperamos en la reunión. Para más información comuníquese con Mark Rudolph (303-692-3311) ó Derek Boer (303-692-3329) del Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado. Los dos hablan español.

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Placement of VBI70 soil at the Asarco/Globe Plant



Q. Why does the EPA want to bring soils from the VBI70 site to the Globe Plant?

A. Placing soil from the VBI70 residential cleanup will save approximately \$5 million dollars.

Q. How will this benefit the Globeville community?

A. The soil from the VBI70 site would be used to cover more contaminated soil currently exposed at the Asarco Globe Plant. The cleanup will be completed sooner. This will provide long-term protection to residents from the soil currently exposed at the site. In addition, using this soil to grade and cover the plant site will enhance its prospects for future reuse as a commercial or recreational facility.

Q. Our community has already been cleaned up. Won't this contaminated soil just re-contaminate our properties?

A. No. Every precaution will be made to ensure that the transportation, handling, and placement of the soil is done properly so that the soil will not re-contaminate neighboring properties.

Q. The neighborhood has been through years of truck traffic, we don't want any more.

A. The State and EPA will work with the community regarding truck traffic, routes to be taken, and time of day for transporting soil.

Q. When Globeville was being cleaned up, dust was a problem, what are you going to do so it won't be a problem again?

A. Truckloads will be covered and water will be used to minimize dust. We will also seed the area to keep the dust down after the soil is placed. We will do air quality monitoring and will share the results with anyone who wants to see them. The EPA and the State will work together to enforce strict measures to protect residents from exposure to dust during transportation.

Q. How contaminated is the soil from VB/I-70?

A. Samples show that the soil from VBI70 contains an average of 240 parts per million (ppm) lead and 57 ppm arsenic. The EPA removes 12 inches of soil, so that a lot of clean soil is mixed with the top 2 inches of the soil where most of the contamination is concentrated. The result is soil that contains much less contamination than the average levels found in the soil now exposed at the Globe Plant where *average* arsenic is at 2289 ppm, cadmium at 5673 ppm, lead at 7759 ppm, and zinc at 8427 ppm.

Q. If the soil is not good enough to be in the yards at VBI70, why is it good enough to be at the Globe plant?

A. Cleanup levels for residential properties are much lower than cleanup levels for commercial and industrial properties. The level of contamination from these yards is much lower than the soil already at the Globe Plant site.

Q. Soil is already being dumped on the Globe site. Why weren't we told? Is this a done deal?

A. The excavated residential soil from the VBI70 project is being temporarily stockpiled at the Asarco Globe Plant until a final decision regarding disposal is made. Based on input from the Globeville community, the soil will either be transported to a local solid waste landfill or permanently placed at the Asarco Globe Plant.

Q. Is Asarco profiting from this deal?

A. Given Asarco's financial situation, the final remediation of the Globe plant is currently in question. This may be the only opportunity we have to improve the condition of the Globe Plant.

Q. Is EPA taking over the Globe site?

A. No. The State of Colorado remains the lead agency for overseeing the cleanup activities on the plant site and in the Globeville neighborhood.

Q. Will other sites be able to dump their contamination at the Globe Plant, too?

A. No. The only reason the EPA and the State were able to consider this plan is that the sites are adjacent and have similar contaminants. No other site would be able to place soil at the Globe Plant.

Q. How do we assure that no one will build homes at the site in the future?

A. The Globe Plant site will have land use restrictions placed upon it under Colorado's Environmental Covenant Law so that no residential development will ever take place there.